

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 809

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize East Tennessee Livestock Center, Inc. for fifty years of success in the livestock industry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those noble institutions of agriculture and livestock, which serve as cornerstones for our communities while bringing credit and acclaim to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy institution is the East Tennessee Livestock Center, Inc., a family-owned livestock market, which will be celebrating fifty years of successful business in April 2012; and

WHEREAS, founded in Sweetwater by University of Tennessee (UT) extension specialist, Joseph W. Houston, and his four business partners, East Tennessee Livestock fulfilled the ever-growing need for a livestock market in southeast Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as the market experienced booming success, Mr. Houston resigned from his duties at UT in order to devote all of his time to the growing business; and

WHEREAS, with the help of his wife, Gladys, who served as office manager, Mr. Houston eventually took over all operations, buying out his other partners and recruiting his son, Mark Houston, in 1980; and

WHEREAS, a UT graduate, Mark Houston expanded the market and grew the related order-buying business; and

WHEREAS, with the unfortunate and untimely passing of Gladys Houston in 1987, Mark's wife, Jennifer, left her work with the United States Department of Agriculture and joined the family business; and

WHEREAS, upon Joseph Houston's retirement in 1994, his son and daughter-in-law inherited leadership of the company, successfully sustaining the business he worked so hard to build; and

WHEREAS, an animal science graduate from UT, Jennifer Houston has served on the Tennessee Beef Industry Council for twenty-five years and has been active in the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, where she currently serves on the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mark Houston has also maintained a visible presence in community livestock organizations, serving as president and member on the board of the Livestock Marketing Association; and

WHEREAS, they took care to instill in their children, Virginia and Ross, a love and appreciation for the agriculture and livestock industries, encouraging their participation in 4-H and Future Farmers of America; Ross is currently a freshman at the University of Alabama, and Virginia is pursuing a career in animal agricultural advocacy in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, though Mr. Joseph Houston passed away last year, his children and grandchildren remain as faithful stewards of his legacy; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud East Tennessee Livestock Center, Inc. for its dedication to livestock marketing, recognizing the importance of the family business to our communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate and commend the Houston family, owners of East Tennessee Livestock Center, Inc., for fifty years of success, and we honor this remarkable institution for its contributions to the livestock industry in Tennessee. We wish to extend to the Houston family our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.